

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet head comprising:

a passage unit including a plurality of nozzles for ejecting ink, a plurality of pressure chambers each connected to each of the nozzles, a common ink chamber for supplying ink to the pressure chambers, and inlet ports for introducing ink into the common ink chamber; and

a branching passage unit including an ink introduction port into which ink is introduced, ink outlet ports formed to correspond to the inlet ports and leading out ink to the inlet ports, an ink branching passage for branching ink from the ink introduction port to the ink outlet ports, and an ink filter formed in the ink branching ~~passage~~passage,

wherein the branching passage unit is formed by laminating a plurality of plates, the plurality of plates include a metal plate and a resin plate, one stacked on the other, and the plate in which the filter is formed is a resin plate, and

wherein the passage unit and the branching passage unit are separate members.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The ink-jet head according to claim 2, wherein the filter is formed by excimer laser machining.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The ink-jet head according to claim 1, wherein the branching passage unit further includes an ink reservoir for restoring ink, and the filter is disposed between the ink reservoir and the ink outlet ports.

6. (Currently Amended) The ink-jet head according to claim 1, wherein

~~the branching passage unit is formed by laminating a plurality of plates, and~~

the filter is formed in a plate including the ink outlet ports among the plurality of plates and in a region corresponding to the ink outlet ports.

7. (Original) The ink-jet head according to claim 1, wherein
the branching passage unit further includes an ink reservoir for restoring ink,
and

the filter is disposed between the ink introduction port and the ink reservoir.

8. (Original) The ink-jet head according to claim 1, wherein
the branching passage unit further includes an ink reservoir for restoring ink,
the branching passage unit has a first plate in which the ink introduction port is
formed, a second plate in which the ink reservoir is formed, and a third plate arranged
between the first plate and the second plate, and

the filter is formed in the third plate.

9. (Original) The ink-jet head according to claim 8, wherein
the filter is formed in the third plate and in a substantial center of the ink
reservoir.

10-28. (Canceled)

29. (New) The ink-jet head according to claim 1, wherein, in use, the metal plate
is in contact with ink.

30. (New) The ink-jet head according to claim 1, wherein the plate comprises
stainless steel.